

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:TGMARTIN:MS
APPROVED BY EUR - WELLS STABLER
ARA/CCA - MR. SIMON (DRAFT)
ARA/CCA - MR. HOFFENBERG (DRAFT)
D - MR. SAMUELS (INFO)
EUR/WE - MR. JOHNSON
S/S-O: K.KURZE

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R 220334Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T STATE 230489

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: CASC, CU, VT, PO
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LUNT FOR PERALTA PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: LISBON 4239
ROME 12741 (NOTAL)

ROME FOR ILLING

1. U.S. CITIZEN LAWRENCE KIRBY LUNT WAS TAKEN PRISONER IN HAVANA IN MAY 1965 AND SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS ON CHARGES OF HARBORING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES AND ESPIONAGE. HE HAS BEEN IN JAIL SINCE 1965.
2. IN MARCH 1971, A PAPAL REQUEST FOR CLEMENCY RESULTED IN A CUBAN OFFER TO EXCHANGE LUNT FOR PERALTA. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HARMEL (LUNT'S WIFE IS BELGIAN) APPROACHED FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY, AND AMBASSADOR KNIGHT FOLLOWED UP WITH
SECRET

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CALVET DE MAGALHAES IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. CALVET TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR IN JANUARY 1972, HOWEVER, THAT PERALTA WAS VALUABLE TO THE PORTUGUESE AND WOULD NOT BE EXCHANGED.

3. IN VIEW OF GOP AMNESTY POLITICAL PRISONERS, EMBASSY
SHOULD APPROACH PORTUGUESE TO SUGGEST SWAP OF
PERALTA FOR LUNT. WE REALIZE THAT GOP MAY BE PLANNING

TO EXCHANGE HIM FOR PORTUGUESE PRISONERS HELD BY PAIGC.
WE WOULD OF COURSE UNDERSTAND IF SUCH A DEAL COULD BE
BROUGHT OFF. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WANT TO MISS OPPORTUNITY
HAVE HIM EXCHANGED FOR LUNT IF PORTUGUESE ONLY PLANNING
TO TURN HIM LOOSE.

4. ROME FOR ILLING: YOU SHOULD INFORM VATICAN OF
POSSIBILITY PERALTA RELEASE, PER LISBON 4239. IF
VATICAN HAS NOT ALREADY INSTRUCTED NUNCIATURA IN
HAVANA TO INTERVENE ON LUNT'S BEHALF, YOU MIGHT
SUGGEST THAT ACTION BE DELAYED PENDING PORTUGUESE
REACTION TO SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF LUNT FOR PERALTA. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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